nothing against a particular State. It was not done because of certain congestion in that particular railway.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Sir, this very question relates to Andhra Pradesh, and the hon. Minister in his reply said that they have not maintained the State-wise position of track renewals. I would appeal to the Minister—they are capable of collecting the information—to collect the necessary information in respect of Andhra Pradesh from these three Railways, and place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said initially, Railways are not maintaining the State-wise position.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: But you can collect it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: If the hon. Member is so keen, I will collect it and pass it on to him.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Yes; definitely. We are very keen to know the position about Andhra Pradesh.

Renovation of Shakkarnagar Railway Station

*82. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:†
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Master of the oldest railway station at Shakkarnagar in Andhra Pradesh is never available for hearing grievances of the commuters;

(b) if so, whether the matter would be enquired into; and

(c) the action taken to repair and renovate the station which is without any public amenities in working order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramachandraiah Rumandla.

RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Shakkarnagar is a small halt station on branch line of Nizamabad—Bodhan Metre Gauge section. Since there is no operational requirements for deploying Station Master, the station is managed by a 'Clerk-in-Charge' who remains on duty from 0600 hours to 1000 hours and 1700 hours to 2100 hours only as per train timings and is not available during the intervening period. Amenities commensurate with the volume of passengers dealt with have already been provided at the station. The face lifting of the station was done in October, 1999 and the existing building is in good condition. However, as a measure of augmenting the existing amenities, additional drinking water taps and seating arrangements are proposed to be provided. The approach road within the railway premises is also proposed to be black-topped.

श्री रामचन्द्रैया रुमन्दला: शकरनगर रेलवे स्टेशन बुहत पुराना रेलवे स्टेशन है और यह निजाम के जमाने से चल रहा है। रेलवे मंत्रालय को इस रेलवे स्टेशन की ओर जितना ध्यान देना चाहिए वह नहीं दिया है। वहां पर आज तक न तो कोई ड्रिंकिंग वाटर की सुविधा है और न पैसेन्जर्स के बैठने के लिए बैंच आदि की सुविधा है। इसका क्या कारण है, मंत्री जी कृपया बताएं?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति जी, यह बात सही है कि यह स्टेशन काफी पुराना स्टेशन है। लेकिन रेलवे की स्टेशनों की मान्यता की जो कैटेगिरी है, उसमें ए० बी० सी० डी० ई० एफ० में से यह एफ० नं० का स्टेशन है। इसलिए वहां पर जो सुविधाएं मुहैया करनी चाहिएं, वे सुविधाएं वहां पर हैं। वहां पर कुल मिलाकर प्रतिदिन 130 पैसेन्जर्स चढ़ते-उतरते हैं। वहां पर सालाना टिकट की आय मात्र पांच लाख रुपए है। इस हिसाब से हमको वहां पर जो सुविधाएं देनी चाहिएं, वे हमने उनको दी हैं। लेकिन जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि कुछ और सुविधाएं बढ़ानी हैं, यकीनन यह पुराना स्टेशन है इसलिए हम उन सुविधाओं को वहां पर बढ़ा देंगे।

श्री सोलीपेटा रामचन्द्रा रेड्डी: ड्रिंकिंग वाटर के बारे में क्या प्रबन्ध है?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: हम वहां पर ड्रिंकिंग वाटर का भी प्रबन्ध कर देंगे।

श्री रामचन्द्रैया रुमन्दला: वहां पर तैनात स्टेशन मास्टर रेलगाड़ी के आने से 15 मिनट पूर्व आकर चला जाता है और उसके बाद उसका कहीं पता नहीं रहता है। इस विषय में कई

लोगों ने आपको अपनी शिकायत भेजी है लेकिन आज तक उस पर कार्यवाही नहीं हुई है। एक-एक स्टेशन पर पन्द्रह बीस साल तक स्टेशन मास्टर रहता है इसलिए स्टेशनों का सुधार नहीं हो पा रहा है। इस बारे में आपका क्या विचार है?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति महोदय, इस स्टेशन पर ट्रेन बहुत कम रुकती है। इसमें न कोई सिग्नल है और न ही कोई और सुविधा है इसलिए सवेरे 6—10 और शाम को 5—9 बजे तक हम स्टेशन मास्टर को रखते हैं क्योंकि इसके अलावा और कोई काम है ही नहीं

श्री रामचन्द्रैया रुमन्दला: फुल टाइम पोस्ट नहीं है?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: फुल टाइम की जरूरत ही नहीं है।

श्री रामचन्द्रैया रुमन्दला: वहां वह रहता ही नहीं है।

श्री दिविजय सिंह: जब ट्रेन का समय होता है तब हम वहां आदमी को रखते हैं।

श्री रामचन्द्रैया रुमन्दला: ट्रेन नहीं है तो वह भी गायब रहेगा, बहुत अच्छा है सभापति जी।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, there is one more problem pertaining to Railways in our State. There are a number of railway stations which have been blown up by the naxalites in the recent past and the Railways does not care either to reconstruct or renovate them. One example is Rajampet in Cuddapah district, which was blown up eight months back. Till now, the commuters are facing innumerable difficulties and the Railways, in spite of many representations, have not done anything. I have quoted only one example. There are a number of them. With regard to naxalite menace, it is a peculiar problem in our State. The railway stations have become there targets. I would like to know the reaction of the Government. I would also like to know whether they would be set right on a war-footing so that commuters are not put to any more difficulties and trains are run regularly.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति जी, कानून व्यवस्था राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है। रेलवे स्वयं को उस समय असहाय पाती है जब कानून व्यवस्था का समर्थन रेलवे को नहीं मिलता और इसलिए इन बातों को, जो माननीय सदस्य ने कही उसको ध्यान में रखते हुए हमने राज्य सरकारों को एक पत्र लिखा था कि कानून व्यवस्था की जिम्मेदारी से संबंधित सुरक्षा अगर राज्य सरकार नहीं दे पाती, पूरा नहीं कर पाती तो उसकी जिम्मेदारी हमारी रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन फोर्स को दी जाए।

इसके लिए राज्य सरकारों के मुख्य सचिव और डी० जी० पुलिस की बैठक भी दिल्ली में बुलाई थी और हमने उनसे कहा है कि या तो वे इस जिम्मेदारी को समझें या इस जिम्मेदारी को हमें दें। उसके लिए टास्क फोर्स की जरूरत है।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the Minister is replying with regard to the protection of railway stations. That is not my question. Are you prepared to undertake construction of those stations which have been blown up by the naxalites, on a war-footing?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am coming to your question only. I was just giving you the background as to why it was done. We are expecting the State Government's report and it is coming now. Accordingly, we will proceed in this case. In this particular case, about the blowing up of a particular station, definitely, it is the duty of the Railways. We will build that station.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Eight months have gone by.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Yes; agreed, because, till now, the State Government has not given the report. It is not only in your case. It has happened in several States, including Bihar. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the Minister is passing the buck to the State Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Of course, Sir, law and order is not my responsibility. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What prevented the Railways from rebuilding the station? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: That we will do. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What prevented you? *(Interruptions)* What answer do you need from the State Government? Please tell me.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति जी, मैं माननीय सदस्यों से यही कहना चाहूंगा कि इस बारे में सब रेलवे स्टेशनों, सिर्फ आंध्र का ही केस नहीं है कई राज्यों में यह घटना घटी है

और हम अभी तक इन जगहों पर रेल चला रहे हैं। नए रेलवे स्टेशन बनाना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है और वे हम बनाएंगे...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, it is a serious question. *(Interruptions)* If a railway bogie is burnt, will you not rebuild it?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Yes; of course.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: The same analogy you should apply to the railway stations.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We will apply. *(Interruptions)* लेकिन एक बार सुरक्षा की गारंटी तो मिले। सुरक्षा की गारंटी जब तक हमें नहीं मिलेगी...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What information do you need from the State Government? *(Interruptions)* What is the information you need from the State Government? *(Interruptions)* Do you need the consent of the State Government to reconstruct a railway station?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: It is happening everywhere. It is not only in your State.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: What information do you need from the State Government?

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Sir, I am on a point of order. I want to hear what the hon. Member is saying. We did not hear. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order here.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: देखिए, रेल बनाना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है उसे पूरा करने के लिए हमने कहा भी है। यह केवल आंध्र का मामला नहीं है। पूरे देश की राज्य सरकारों से हमने पूछा है कि इसकी जिम्मेदारी कौन लेगा? कलक्टर और एस० पी० के सामने ट्रेन की बोगी जलाई जा रही है तो इसकी जिम्मेदारी कौन लेगा?

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: This is for reconstruction of the railway stations. ..*(Interruptions)*...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: मैं तो बताऊंगा ही I must get this guarantee. यह बनाना हमारा काम है, बनाने को तैयार हैं। लेकिन सदन को हम विश्वास में लेना चाहते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raja Ramanna. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is your question related to Andhra?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: It is not related to Andhra but Andhra is included in it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, this question is related to railways in Andhra only. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Please listen to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will withdraw it if you think it is out of place ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the hon. Minister has just now talked of various aspects of the Railways concerning the States. Sir, I want to say that I have travelled a lot times in the North. I have also travelled in Raichur which is very close to Andhra where the trains are in a miserable condition. The bogies are so old that they correspond to what was there during the British days. Nothing has been done in this regard. This question relates to the quality of trains, and therefore, I thought it that I should bring to the notice of hon. Minister the condition of trains in Raichur which though situated in Karnataka is very close to Andhra. Sir, they have done much for the trains running in the North. The trains running between Delhi and Chandigarh, for example, are wonderful. But the trains running in Raichur, Bijapore, etc. are in an awful condition.

MR. CHIRMAN: This question does not arise out of it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing, nothing. ...*(Interruptions)* This question relates to only Andhra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Sir, my question is connected with Andhra.... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, it is sidetracking. ...*(Interruptions)*...Next question.